

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1885.

AGASSIZ'S DECLINATION.

Washington, Oct. 1.—The following correspondence between the secretary of the treasury and Prof. Agassiz explains itself:

Washington, Sept. 22, 1885.

Professor A. Agassiz, Cambridge, Mass.: Sir—I am authorized by the president to offer to you the office (now vacant) of superintendent of the United States coast and geodetic survey, and to express to you his most earnest wish that you will accept the offer and give to the government the benefit of your scientific experience and business energy. I beg leave to add for myself an equally urgent request that you will accept the place. The bureau needs, at this moment more than ever, the care and guidance, not only of superior scientific faculties, but of the very best executive ability. We are convinced that you can satisfy both of these urgent needs, and be a worthy successor of even the most distinguished among the very competent and illustrious men who have been at the head of its forces. Useful and important as the work of the bureau has been, much and even more useful and important work remains to be done. Your acceptance of the office now tendered to you, without solicitation on your part, will be an assurance to the country, we hope, that while prosecuting its great purposes with judicious economy, a scientific intelligence of the broadest and highest order will surely mark the progress of the bureau. May we not hope, if you shall hesitate about postponing for a little your present work at Cambridge and the pursuit of the specialty which so much interests you, that you will, before making a final decision, come to Washington, and by a personal conference with the president and myself, be convinced how urgent and exceptional it is at this moment, both for the government and the real interests of American science, that faculties and reputation such as you happily possess may be at the head of the coast survey. Very respectfully yours, DANIEL MANNING.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY, Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 29, 1885. To the Honorable Daniel Manning, Secretary of the Treasury: Sir—I cannot feel but highly flattered at the offer of the position of superintendent of the United States coast survey, made to me on behalf of the president, in your letter of the 22d. In declining this offer, tendered in such a cordial manner, I have given all possible weight to the reasons urged in favor of my acceptance. It would be a pleasure to me to express to the president and yourself my thanks in person for the honor conferred upon me, which I must, however, respectfully decline for various reasons. As I am neither a professional mathematician nor physicist, I do not think my appointment would be acceptable to my scientific colleagues as head of the coast survey. There are, if I am not mistaken, two gentlemen, at least, in the service of the government, and two civilians who are eminent specialists well fitted for the post. Except in one case I am unable to speak from any knowledge of their executive ability. Under these circumstances I do not feel it my duty to take your proposition into consideration, even were other reasons which kept me at Cambridge at present such as could be ignored. But I may add that I have charge of important interests on which my scientific future depends, and which I could not honestly jeopardize. My health is such also that I am compelled every winter to absent myself for at least three months, so that the little time I have at my command for scientific work would be completely sacrificed were I to move to Washington and begin anew in a field which is not my own. While I am forced to the decision, which must be considered final, I cannot refrain from expressing my gratification at the interest shown by the administration in the appointment of a worthy successor to the former superintendent of the coast survey. That I should be named in this connection is a proof of confidence which I value highly. Unquestionably, it is essential at this moment, both to the government and the interests of science throughout the country, that the head of so important a scientific bureau should be possessed of the highest scientific capacity, honesty and executive ability.

I am extremely obliged for your cordial invitation to visit Washington. Were I to accept it, however, sensible as I am of the force of the arguments so kindly urged upon me by the president and yourself, I could only apply them in order to press the claims of others, and assist, if possible, in making an appointment satisfactory to the administration and to the best interest of science.

I remain, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, A. AGASSIZ.

—Worcester Spy, Oct. 8th.

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1st—The Society issues all the approved forms of assurance, including Ordinary Life, Endowment and Term policies. It is immaterial to the Director which form of policy is taken by intending assurers.

2d—The Life and Endowment forms of policy provide for annual cash dividends, and a surrender value; are indispensible after three years and payable immediately after proof of death.

3d—The premiums on a Tontine policy are the same as on the Ordinary Life, but while the latter is only payable at the event of death, the holder of the Tontine policy has the right to draw the whole of the reserve and the accumulated profits in cash at the end of a stated period; thus, during his own lifetime, after his producing years are past, he can, without any larger premium than on an ordinary policy, secure these greater advantages.

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6th—Experience shows that the mortality is lower among Tontine policyholders, as the better lives seek this kind of assurance, which is a considerable source of profit.

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9th—The Society has since its organization transacted a larger amount of new business than any other company, while its new business for the first half of the present year is \$1,750,000 larger than that of the first half of 1884. It has Assets of \$60,000,000; over \$14,000,000 of Surplus, and its ratio of Surplus to Liability is greater than that of any other company.

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Committee of the Board of Directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

ALEX. J. CARTWRIGHT, General Agent for Hawaiian Islands, Equitable Life Assurance Society. 127 1y

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